



LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

March 10, 2010

BOARD PRESENT: Bailey, Brodsky, Bryant, Chiles, Dickerson, Grey-McKenzie, Kim, Lewis, J., Lewis, O., Neuman

STAFF PRESENT: Parker Hamilton, Director; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Brodsky at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 13, 2010 meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A representative from the Friends of the Library (FOL), Montgomery County, Inc. will be attending the monthly Board meetings. Matthew Fink, a retired lawyer and lobbyist, was introduced. Mr. Fink is on the FOL's Board of Trustees and will also attend the April meeting.

In the past, Ari Brooks, as Executive Director of the FOL, attended the Board meetings. Ms. Brooks is no longer able to attend. Director Hamilton felt that because the two groups work closely together, that it is important to have FOL representation at the meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

The **Annual MCLB/LAC** meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2010. Chair Brodsky and Lois Neuman have been working on plans for the meeting. The meeting will again be held at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Board will look at rotating future annual meetings to other Montgomery College campuses.

Chair Brodsky has begun working on the program. He has received commitments from some speakers. He would like the speakers to be brought in electronically via Skype. One of the speakers is Josh Greenberg, the director of Social Media for the New York Public Libraries. Mr. Greenberg has done some fabulous presentations in New York about what is being done with social media and what his department is doing. Another speaker is Dan Kweetz, who is part of a new movement called DIY scanner. This movement involves people who make their own books

scanners. It would be interesting to see how this affects libraries and books. Mr. Kweetz has tentatively agreed to join electronically.

Chair Brodsky has issued other invitations. Next week the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is going to produce the National Broadband Plan – a document about how high speed internet can affect the country, and the importance of broadband and libraries. A speaker has been requested from the FCC.

He also reached out to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which is coming up with an interesting study about people from all walks of life are benefiting from public library internet access. IMLS has some really good statistics about how people use libraries for educational training, to look for career guidance, etc.

Author Marilyn Johnson has also been contacted. Ms. Johnson has written a book entitled, *This Book is Overdue: How Librarians and Cybrarians Will Save Us All*. Schedule permitting, Ms. Johnson may attend.

A number of elected officials attended last year's annual meeting. Chair Brodsky asked that Otto Lewis contact the County Executive and Councilmembers and invite them to attend. The attending officials will be asked to participate in the awards ceremony by presenting the LAC Achievement Awards to the winners.

Currently, there have been no award nominations submitted. Silver Spring and Germantown are working on submissions. All Board members were asked to get in touch with their LACs and Agency Managers and remind them to submit their nominations by April 1. The application has been streamlined; Chair Brodsky thanked the Board members who worked on that process.

Legislative Day has been rescheduled for St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Chair Brodsky will be unable to attend. An email has been disseminated regarding virtual Legislative Day. Announcements will be sent out via Capwiz.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

FY10 Budget – A number of staff who were rified from Libraries were able to find positions in other departments in County government. Even though they will no longer work for Libraries, MCPL is grateful that they were able to find work. Two employees worked in Central Offices on this floor. They will be missed and are wished well. This is just the beginning of staff members losing their positions with MCPL due to budget cuts.

Customers are beginning to notice that the **materials budget** has indeed been cut. Feedback and comments are being received about databases not being available; about certain magazines not being on the shelves, and again, this is just the beginning.

The **new Sunday Service model** went into a modified opening. The plan was to enter a full no staffing of the information desk on March 7, but MCPL was notified by the Office of Human Resources that the Union had to be given a thirty day notice regarding the change. Implementation of the new model was put on hold. However, substitutes were not hired for March 7. If Board members were in the branches this past Sunday, they may have noticed that there were very few staff at the information desk. As of March 28, there will be no staff at the information desk on Sundays through the end of May. Service will be provided through Ask-a-Librarian and online

chat. This will be in effect through the end of May, and will help MCPL reach its FY10 Savings Plan.

An **email notification campaign** was conducted; it was very successful. There were a number of people who signed up for email notifications. This is helping with the cost of printing and with going green.

Books are no longer being stamped. This transition began about a year ago. The font size has been changed on the **receipt printers** that were received from Friends of the Library. There were a lot of complaints received when the receipt printers were first implemented, but now the complaints are down to one per month. Once the font size was changed, seniors and other customers seemed to be more satisfied.

Mr. Leggett made a decision about **Wheaton Library**. He has decided at this time, that the library will not be moved from its current location. In the meanwhile, funds are being allocated to maintain the building and take care of safety concerns. Mr. Leggett hopes to get it into the full CIP at the next opportunity which will be in about two years.

Summer Reading is taking on a new model this year. MCPL does not have the staff to do the intensive work that has been done over the years. It is going to be a reading program. Prizes will not be handed out. Friends of the Library will continue to sell the t-shirts online; the t-shirts will not be sold in the branches. The number of volunteers for the program will be cut back; it takes staff to manage volunteers. MCPL hopes to reach the goal of reading and not just coming to the library to get a prize.

Outreach to the schools will not be done due to lack of staffing. Last year Director Hamilton worked with Gail Bailey on website collaboration. They hope to do the same this year and to produce bookmarks or reading lists. They will work together to ensure that the proper notification goes out to the schools.

An update on Mr. Leggett's **FY11 budget** is not available. Mr. Leggett has asked that conversations regarding the FY11 recommendations not be held until after his press conference on Monday, March 15. The press conference will take place at noon in the Executive Office Building.

Staff and Director Hamilton will begin attending FOL and LAC meetings. Agency Managers have been asked to submit the dates and times of any upcoming meetings. The message needs to be consistent regarding what has been proposed for the library system. The purpose is to help all understand the challenges that MCPL and Mr. Leggett had and to answer any questions. The work of putting the budget together has been done, now the job of implementing it will soon begin. The first meeting is in Silver Spring on Monday night, March 15. The DRC LAC meeting is March 16.

What has been presented and what Mr. Leggett has recommended is pretty good for the money that MCPL has. The system will still be a good system, and will have a good platform from which to build back. This will be difficult for most staff. It is anticipated that there will be some type of employee assistance program for those who will be left behind, and will be doing less with less. There is care and concern for all – those who will be leaving the system as a result of reduction in force and those who remain.

Question: Can other LACs who have just had meetings come to the Silver Spring meeting?
Answer: It's a good idea.

Discussion was held regarding support strategies for this year and what was done last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Brodsky spoke with the Public Information Office regarding LEAP. A press release is being drafted to go out towards the end of next week. A draft will be sent to Director Hamilton in the next day or so. There will be places for quotations from Mr. Leggett, Parker Hamilton, Art Brodsky and Ann Dorough.

LAC BUSINESS:

LAC Applications

The applications submitted for LAC memberships were approved unanimously.

LAC Updates

Aspen Hill LAC wanted to have more information on the Open Meetings Act. They want to know how the Act affects LACs; specifically if it pertains to their meetings.

The Open Meetings Act does pertain to LAC meetings. LACs are subcommittees of the Library Board, and as such, must conduct open meetings. The meetings must be open to the public; the meeting dates and times must be announced; if a meeting date and/or time are changed, the change must be posted. This information is included in the LAC Handbook.

Olney will be closing in the fall for renovation. They are working with the architect; everything is on schedule. There will be a public meeting in April. The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and the LAC will be there to help answer questions.

A proclamation was read naming Parker Hamilton as the best director. Director Hamilton said it was a pleasure working with the Olney Community.

Chevy Chase is looking forward to the forum. Otto Lewis will provide an update on the outcome.

There will be a special cleaning of the carpet at Chevy Chase. The carpet was destroyed as a result of a backup due to the storm.

Bethesda is concerned about a moratorium on their programs until June after all the budget issues have been handled. They are also concerned about the bathrooms being cleaned on a regular basis.

Poolesville is fine. They are working on their annual poster contest and new dates for their LAC meetings.

White Oak is also concerned about the bathroom cleaning issue.

The meeting at **Quince Orchard** went very well.

The **FOL** bookstores are doing well in spite of the snowstorms. Book sales are up 16%. The FOL Board lost two members; they are looking for individuals with business and financial backgrounds to fill the vacant positions.

Silver Spring LAC is concerned about the new centralization of programs. At a recent event some of the performers did not show up. This concern was mentioned by someone who is an FOL member and who felt there was a lack of communication.

Germantown is doing well. Agency Manager Nancy Savas did a wonderful schematic of what the budget issues are.

Wheaton LAC had a nice presentation on Virtual Services.

Some of the LACs may have not received the awards information. It would be good to send to the Agency Managers as well. The information will be sent out again.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

B. Parker Hamilton